FINANCIAL BUSINESS.

Mr. S. Sundararajan: (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, in the voting of the Demands for Grants in the Budget for 1116 a reduction of one rupee was made by the Sri Mulam Assembly in the allotment of Rs. 4,500 for the Transport Department under Travelling Allowance. Government have accepted this cut and I request the permission of the President to amend the Budget placed before the Sri Chitra State Council accordingly.

President: Permission is granted.

PROCEDURE RELATING TO GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET AND VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

President: Before we proceed to the general discussion of the budget, I wish to draw the attention of the honourable members to the general rules and the procedure which have to be observed in the discussion and debates in this House on the budget.

As you are already aware, the debate on the budget will begin today with a general discussion followed by the voting of demands for grants from tomorrow. The maximum of four days allowed under Rule 74 of the Legislative Rules has been allotted for the latter. The demands will be discussed in the order in which they appear in the printed list placed in your hands. The demands under I-Land Revenue and Taxes on Income, and XII-Public Works Department including Water Works and Drainage may each be discussed for half a day, and not more than one hour will be allotted for each of the remaining demands.

The procedure in calculating the time for the voting of demands will be the one adopted in previous years. A day will be taken as from 11 A. M. to 5 P. M. of which the first hour is available for questions and answers and another hour (1 to 2 P. M.) will be the lunch interval. The remaining four hours will be reckoned as a full day and two hours as half a day. If the time taken up for questions and answers is less than an hour, the remaining time will also be available to the House for the voting of demands, but such available time will not go to increase the time allotted for any one demand, and will only enable the House to reach more demands.

Honourable members of the Council are of course aware that they should discuss each demand as a whole and vote upon it as a whole without moving for the reduction of any grant or of any item in a grant. To enable the discussion of each demand in the Council it is not necessary that the members should send in any specific motion, and the Council will have the right to assent or refuse its assent to any demand when it is put to the House.

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During the general discussion no member other than the Financial Secretary will be allowed more than 15 minutes, and in the voting of demands for grants the time limit for speeches for members will be 10 minutes. I hope honourable members will so adjust their speeches as to make it possible for a large number of their colleagues including the official members to participate in the debate.

The general discussion will now commence.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Sir, I wish to state that the usual time is 11 to 4-30 every day.

President: For the budget sitting it is 11 to 5.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Sir, as I rise...

President: Order, order. Elsewhere I found certain difficulty because honourable members did not intimate to the Chair as to who was willing to take part in the discussion. I would suggest that the honourable members who wish to take part in the discussion should send in their names, indicating at the same time whether they would like to speak in the forenoon or in the afternoon. Some honourable members might prefer to speak in the forenoon while some others might prefer to speak in the afternoon.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Sir, as I rise to make a few observations on the financial position in the country as revealed by the Budget presented to the Legislature, I am confronted with the overwhelming fact of the uncertainty raised by the intolerable world situation. Added to this, Sir, the statements about constitutional changes made by the British Government and the important political parties in British India have certain inevitable repercussions on the financial, political and fiscal position of Travancore. I do not propose, Sir, to enter into a discussion of the mutual relations and obligations of Travancore and British India or the Paramount Power in general. But I wish to state, and I may be excused for trenching upon that subject in so far as it affects the financial position of Travancore. The question of independence for India as its ultimate destiny or its immediate prospective achievement has been raised and various controversies have grown round it. The House is well aware of the statement that you have made, Sir regarding that subject and I may say that I am very much relieved of the responsibility of talking on that subject and indicating about it. Since the declaration made on behalf of the British Government by His Excellency the Viceroy who has more or less confirmed in every detail the pronouncement that you have made with regard to the mutual relation that subsists between Travancore and the Paramount Power.

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